Beside DeLaura Beach Road

Monument Marks Site Where Japanese

A gray granite marker now stands beside DeLaura Beach road, 100 yards west of the Ridge Road intersection, marking the spot where one of 17 or 18 Japanese cannon shells fell early in World War II.

Dick Thompson, Astoria mason, has completed carving the monument for the Clatsop County Historical Advisory Committee, which received and carried out the project with sponsorship from the county commission.

The marker carries a carved scale replica of the Japanese submarine I-25 which bombarded Fort Stevens the night of June 21, 1942.

Thompson said he wanted to make the carving of the submarine authentic, so he wrote the Mitsubishi Shipyard, Kobe, Japan, builders of I-25 and other subs of its class. The shipyard sent him complete blueprints of the boat.

A special committee of the county historical advisory committee has worked on the marker project. It includes Dr. Edward Harvey, chairman; George Fulton, acting chairman; Dorothy Wooton and William Foster.

Prepared Site

A county road crew directed by Roadmaster John Dooley prepared the site and cleared brush along the road. Thompson said county authorities are considering developing the site into a park, to be maintained by the county. The site is on county-owned property.

The advisory committee is considering promotion of a dedicatory ceremony at the marker this spring, inviting officials such as Gov. Tom McCall and U.S. Rep. Wendell Wyatt, if available.

Eventually, it is hoped, the site might become a national historical monument under the National Park Service, as it marks the only foreign attack since the War of 1812 on a military post in the continental U.S.

I-25 and I-26, twin Japanese submarines, were on a cruise to the Eastern Pacific to attack U. S. shipping in the spring of 1942, with an additional assignment to bombard any safe targets they found on the coast.

I-26 had bombarded a lighthouse at Point Estevan on Vancouver Island the night of June 20.

Next night the I-25, commanded by Lt. Comdr. Meiji Tagami of the Imperial Japanese Navy, selected Fort Stevens. According to J. Larry Kemp, Concord, Calif., who has done much research on the incident, Lt. Comdr. Tagami thought the fort sheltered a U. S. submarine base.

(Other reports s
commander was tr
bard the Clatsop
Tagami started
11 p.m. Kemp qu
follows:

"The first shot
electric shock to th
they shouted and
on the deck hugg

Petition Seeks Sewer District Boundary Lines

NEHALEM — A petition has been filed with the County Clerk of Tillamook County, asking the county commissioners to call a public hearing relative to the firming up of boundary lines of a proposed sewer district, to be known as "Nehalem Bay Sanitary Authority", which would include Nehalem, Bayside Gardens, Manzanita, Necarney City, Neahkahnie and some surround-

se Shell Landed in World War II

ports say the sub was trying to bom- atsop Airport).

tarted firing about mp quotes him as

t shot was like an k to the crew . . . d and danced about hugging each oth-

er . . . one crew member hugged me and my face was sore from the scratching of his unshaven face."

Tagami said the sub fired 18 shells in 15 minutes, closed the hatches, and sailed to deeper water and submerged.

Meanwhile the garrison of Fort Stevens, commanded by Col. C. S. Doney, stood by at the guns, but did not fire back. Coast artillery doctrine prescribes such lack of action in the face of an attack by a single vessel, which conceivably could be reconnoitering to draw fire for the purpose of locating the gun positions for benefit of a following attack force.

I-25 carried a 5.5 inch deck gun. Battery Russell at Fort Stevens was armed with two 10-inch rifled guns on disappearing carriages.

I-25, built in Kobe at Mitsubishi Shipyards, was launched Oct. 15, 1941. It was sunk by U. S. action off Samoa in Oct., 1943.

Daily Astorian

Beach Shelling Site Marked

This marker beside DeLaura Beach Road stands on the site where a Japanese cannon shell landed during World War II. Beside marker is Dick Thompson of Astoria, who prepared the granite monument. (See Story Page 8)

7-12-70

June 17, 1970

Shell Crater Rites Dated

ASTORIA (Special) — Site of the crater where shells from a Japanese submarine struck U.S. soil in 1942 will be dedicated formally at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 21, on Delaura Beach Road south of Ft. Stevens.

The fort was target of a number of shots fired from the sub early in World War II, but all of the shells went wide.

A stone marker commemorating the attack will be presented to Clatsop County offican Legion, with Rep. Wendell Wyatt making the presentation address.

Verne Stratton, chairman of the board of county commissioners, will accept the monument on behalf of the county. George Fulton, Astoria attorney, is scheduled to act as master of ceremonies and "call to the colors" will be sounded by Mustang Drum and Bugle Corps of Longview-Kelso under the direction of Roy Broggs.

The marker was designed and manufactured by Dick Thompson of Astoria and occupies a knoll just east of strawberry knoll, a fire control point for Ft. Stevens during the war.

"But, best you get your reservations in right now, because only 200 can be seated," we explained, giving them an Anchor member's phone number to call.

"You and the boy could go fishing on a charter boat, if you like that sort of thing, while your wife and daughter attend the luncheon," was our next suggestion.

"You mean, just anyone can go out fishing here?" the man asked, dubiously.

"Just call a mooring basin in the area, ask for a charter boat number, and they'll fix you up, tell you the price and where to get a visitor's fishing license," we added. "But be sure you get back in time for the kiddies parade at 6 p.m. The kids will like that. It goes straight up this street, Commercial, and it's something all ages enjoy."

Teen-Age Dance

We also told them about the teen-age dance at 8 p.m. at the 4-H grounds, with top rock music Friday night at 8 p.m.

Regatta Schedule

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

- Opening of Davis Amusement Carnival, 4-H Fairgrounds
- 8:00 p.m.—Queen's Coronation and Reception, Astoria High School

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

- 12:00 Noon—Queen's Luncheon, Astoria Junior High School
- 6:00 p.m.—Kiddies' Parade, 6th & Commercial to Fairgrounds
- 8:00 p.m.—Regatta Teen Dance, 4-H Fairgrounds
- 9:00 p.m.—Regatta Beer Garden and Street Dance, East Safeway Lot

U.S. Is Prepared to Take 'Sensible Risks' In Withdrawal of Troops from Vietnam War

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State William P. Rogers declared today that in deciding on further withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam "We're prepared to take sensible risks for peace."

Rogers told a news conference that while the lull in the war in Vietnam had been broken by a surge of enemy activity on Aug. 11 and 12, "On the whole enemy activity over the last two months has been somewhat less than previously."

Rogers said that the United States had responded to the lull —initiated by the Communists in June—in an effort to lower the level of combat but he refused to say precisely what battle orders were given.

He also said that the United States is prepared to respond further to enemy cutbacks in activity.

The emphasis of Rogers' comment on the lull and on "sensible risks for peace" appeared to support the expectation that President Nixon will announce new troop reductions toward the end of the month, although the final decision is yet to be made.

On other issues, Rogers said:

—The current anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia a year ago "serves as a grim reminder with ominous overtones of the difficulty we have" in trying to negotiate and resolve differences with the Soviet Union.

—The United States and its NATO allies are closely watching the heavily expanded Soviet naval force in the Mediterranean and NATO "is going to take any necessary action to be sure the security of the area is not impaired."

Rogers did not explain what he meant by action but presumably referred to possible redeployment of allied forces to offset Soviet deployment.

—The Nixon administration is aware of congressional concern that the United States might be dragged into a land war in Thailand and Rogers asserted that if a crisis should arise raising that issue "We will consult with Congress, we will get advice from Congress and in any appropriate respect we will get its consent."

Daily Astorian

Marker Proposed

This is Dick Thompson's sketch of the proposed marker near the shell hole where a round from Japanese submarine 1-17 landed June 21, 1942, along the DeLaura Beach Road. Legend on the upright granite slab reads "On June 21, 1942, a 5.5 shell exploded here; one of 17 fired at Columbia River Harbor Defense installations by a Japanese submarine. The only hostile shelling of a military base on the U.S. mainland during World War II and the first since the War of 1812." The American Legion emblem appears on the base, made of split-face granite. (See story Page 2)

Aug 8-20-69

6-22-1970

Daily Astorian

Ceremony Was Held Sunday for Dedication of Shelling Marker

Wyatt to Seek National Designation of Shelling Site

Rep. Wendell Wyatt will work to see the site of the bombardment of Fort Stevens by a Japanese submarine in 1942 is designated as a national historical site, he said Sunday.

Wyatt was principal speaker at a brief ceremony dedicating a monument erected at the spot where one of 18 rounds fired by the deck gun of the submarine I-25 dug a crater in the sand of Clatsop Palins.

Wyatt said he would use his position as member of the Interior Department appropriations subcommittee of the House to push the project and, with help of the other members of the Oregon delegation, "I think we will succeed."

Some 150 persons attended the half hour ceremony, held along the DeLaura Beach road west of its junction with Ride Road and some three miles south of Fort Stevens, presumed target of the I-25's 15-minute bombardment the night of June 21, 1942.

The ceremony was conducted by District I, American Legion, Oregon Department. George Wikscrom, district commander, attended along with representatives of 11 of the 16 Legion posts in the district—Astoria, Warrenton, Seaside, King City, Tillamook, Tigard, Cannon Beach, Sherwood, Forest Grove, Clatskanie and —Hillsboro.

Wikstrom gave a check from the district to Dick Thompson, designer and maker of the stone marker erected at the site a few months ago, as payment for his effort. He also formally presented the marker to the Clatsop County commissioners.

George Fulton, of the county commission's historical advisory committee presided at the ceremony. The Mustang Drum and Bugle Corps of the Longview-Kelso district provided martial music. The Rev. Richard Sutton gave invocation and benediction.

Wyatt in his remarks noted that Japan today is one of our allies.

"I think it is significant that we can do this ceremony today in a spirit of friendship and for preserving important history," he said. "It is a sign we have come of age—that we can join hands with our former enemies."

He also felt that this sort of event "helps to hold us together, in contrast to the divisiveness of which we see so much these days."

Historical significance of the Fort Stevens bombardment, Wyatt said, is because it is the only military post in mainland United States attacked by a foreign enemy since the War of 1812.

Money Limited

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. J. W. Fulbright wants money for the Pentagon's "propaganda apparatus" limited to less than one-quarter of its present $44 million public relations spending.

"There is something basically unwise and undemocratic about a system which taxes the public to finance a propaganda campaign aimed at persuading the same taxpayers that they must spend more tax dollars to subvert their independent judgment," Fulbright said Sunday.

Poodle Appearance

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AP) — A clerk-typist at this base has written to the White House complaining about the appearance of Vickie, Mrs. Richard M. Nixon's poodle, in a recent newspaper picture.

"It is just as displeasing to see a poodle in need of grooming as it is to see a beagle picked up by his ears," wrote Shirley Moody, who also runs a poodle salon.

A reply from Constance Stuart, staff director to Mrs. Nixon, said: "We are bringing this to the attention of the gentleman in charge of handling the dogs."

CLATSOP COUNTY

Courthouse . . . . Astoria, Oregon 97103

Dear Congressman Wyatt,

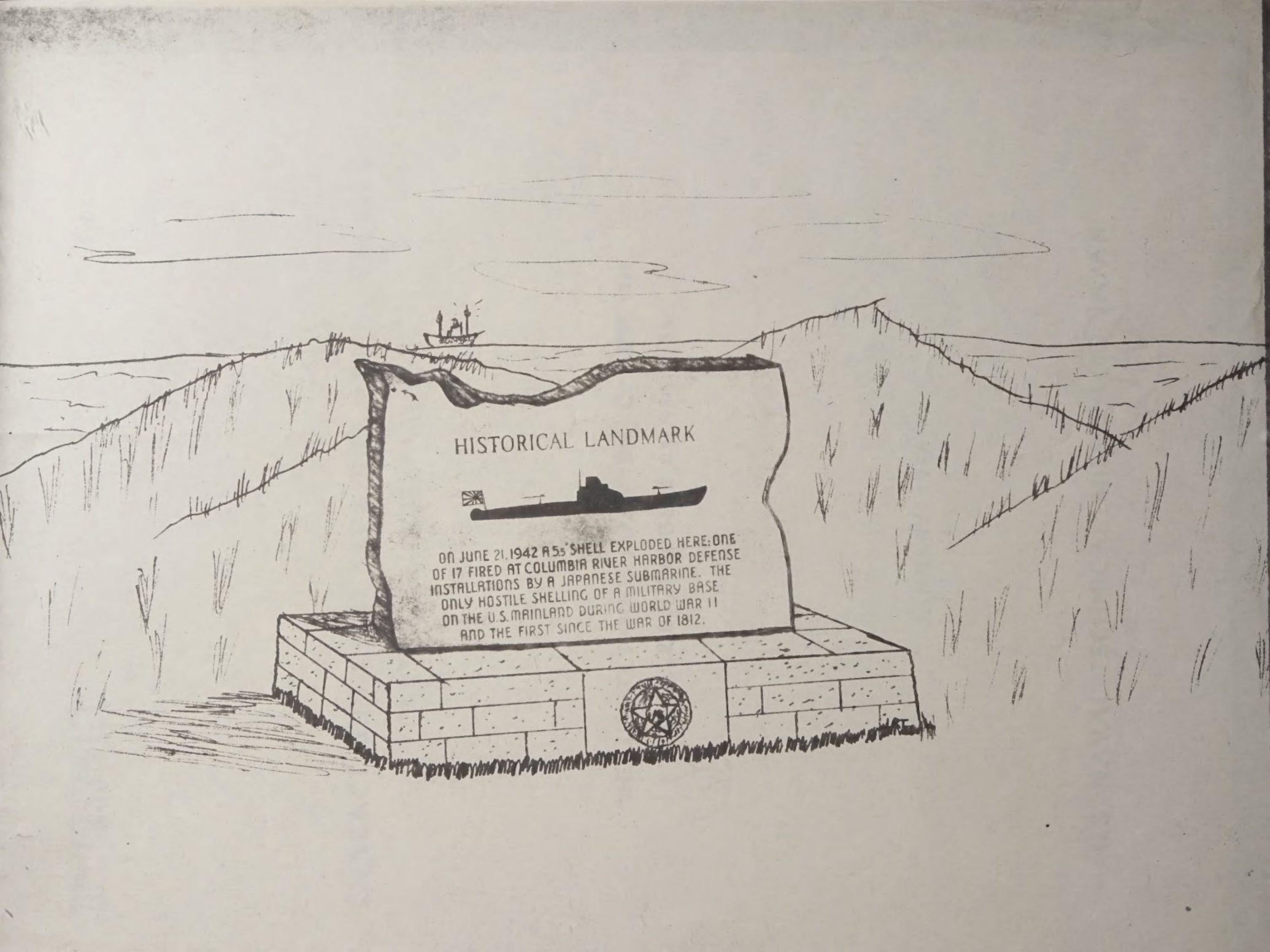
For all your most sincere endeavors for the Shilling marker (past and recent) we are most appreciative. Your search of the historical background information gave us the correct legend for inscription on the stone. Thus we felt truly privileged to have you dedicate it and present it.

Cordially,

Ed.

Historical Advisory Com.

7-8-70


HISTORICAL LANDMARK
ON JUNE 21, 1942 A 5.5" SHELL EXPLODED HERE; ONE OF 17 FIRED AT COLUMBIA RIVER HARBOR DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS BY A JAPANESE SUBMARINE. THE ONLY HOSTILE SHELLING OF A MILITARY BASE ON THE U.S. MAINLAND DURING WORLD WAR II AND THE FIRST SINCE THE WAR OF 1812.

DECLASSIFIED

CHARACTERISTICS OF JAPANESE NAVAL VESSELS
ARTICLE 1 - SUBMARINES

"INTELLIGENCE TARGETS JAPAN" (DNI) OF 4 SEPT. 1945
FASCICLE S-1, TARGET S-01 AND S-05

JANUARY 1946

U.S NAVAL TECHNICAL MISSION TO JAPAN

DECLASSIFIED

Notes on I-47

The forward torpedo rooms are located in intersecting circles vertically one above the other as in the I-400 class. Framing in the lower torpedo room is inside, although double hull. The reason given by the Japanese is that the space between the inner and outer hulls is inadequate for proper framing and that, therefore, the outside framing of small scantlings was supplemented by inside framing. The inside framing is of Z-bar section. The pressure bulkheads are formed of intersecting vertical cylindrical surfaces with vertical stiffeners at the traces and with a substantial horizontal box girder. The stiffeners are welded to the bulkhead and the bulkhead welded to a flange ring riveted to the hull.

Provision is made for carrying six Kaiten's on deck (two forward and four aft). These are entered at sea through hatches at the bottom and pipes to submarines. Forward the pipes lead to the forward battery compartment hatch trunk between the upper and lower hatches. Similar arrangements are included aft. Additional pressure hull openings are thus avoided.

The main engines have detached 750 HP motor driven scavenger blowers which can be cross connected.

The bridge is closed and at the top of the covered position forward is a binocular periscopic turret for lookout work - it is heavy and is trained by gears, manually.

f. I-15, I-17, I-19, I-23, I-25 to I-45. Built 1940 (concurrently with I-16 class). Small cruiser submarines. I-36 remains.

Displacement, standard	2,212 tons
normal	2,612 tons
emergency	3,233 tons
submerged	3,653 tons
Length	108.7 meters
Beam	9.3 meters
Draft	5.19 meters
Submerged endurance	33 hours at three knots
Submergence depth	100 meters
Submergence time	50 seconds
Speed	22/8.7
*Torpedo tubes	six forward, Type 95
*Planes	one
Battery	10,000 AH; 240 cells; 240 volts Type 13
Engine	2 x 10 cylinder, two cycle, double acting, reversible, 9,000 IHP each, Sulzer type, direct drive, 12,400 SHP, weight 15 metric tons or 43 lbs/hp
Aux. Engines	1 x 6 cylinder, four cycle, solid injection, single acting, 675 HP
Main motors	two double armature, 1,000 HP, Type Five
Hull	"D" steel, double, riveted. Pressure hull thickness 22mm.
Fuel	800 tons
Range	14,000 miles at 16 knots

*Principal difference from I-16 class.

g. I-52, I-53, and I-55. Built late 1943. Small cruiser submarine.

Displacement, standard	2,095 tons
normal	2,563 tons
emergency	3,141 tons
submerged	3,561 tons

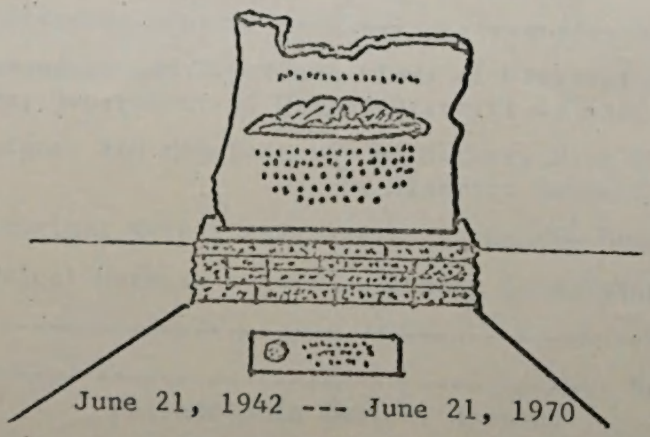
HISTORICAL LANDMARK PRESENTATION

DISTRICT #1 POSTS OF AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

TO

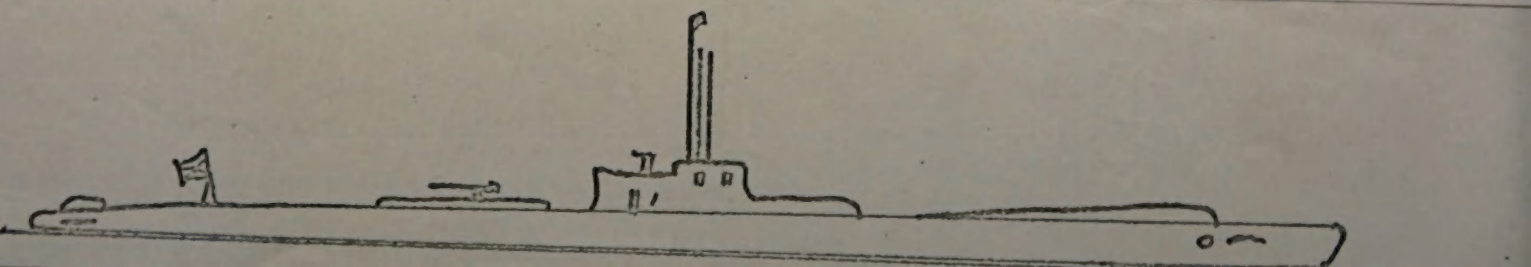
CLATSOP COUNTY



June 21, 1942 --- June 21, 1970

DELAURA BEACH ROAD

JUNE 21, 1970 - 3:00 P. M.



ANDERSON, FULTON & LAVIS
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
SPEXARTH BUILDING
ASTORIA, OREGON 97103

ROBERT C. ANDERSON
GEORGE C. FULTON
HAYES P. LAVIS
DAN VAN THIEL

TELEPHONE
325-5911

July 19, 1968

Mr. E. W. Harvey
Seafood Labatories
250 36th Street
Astoria, Oregon 97103

Dear Ed:

I have wrote your caption and rephrased it to my liking which may not meet with your approval whatsoever. I particularly detest the word aimed as a former fire controlman in the U. S. Navy and pointer on a director. I believe it would be more appropiate to replace both the words aimed and dropped with the word fired.

I trust you realize the criticism is made with tongue in cheek so to speak.

Very truly yours,

George C. Fulton

GCF/sb

Enclosure

Dictated but not read..

1.25

Opening Remarks ---------- George Fulton
Clatsop County Historical Advisory Committee

Presentation of Colors ---------- District #1 Posts
American Legion, Department of Oregon

To The Colors ------- Mustang Drum & Bugle Corps - Longview-Kelso, Washington
Roy R. Briggs, Director

Invocation ---------- Rev. Richard Sutton
First Baptist Church, Astoria

Introduction of Dignitaries present ---------- George Fulton

Introduction of Commanders and Representatives of District #1 Posts
American Legion, Department of Oregon-District Commander George Wikstrom

Presentation to Designer and Manufacturer of Marker, Dick Thompson --
by District Commander George Wikstrom

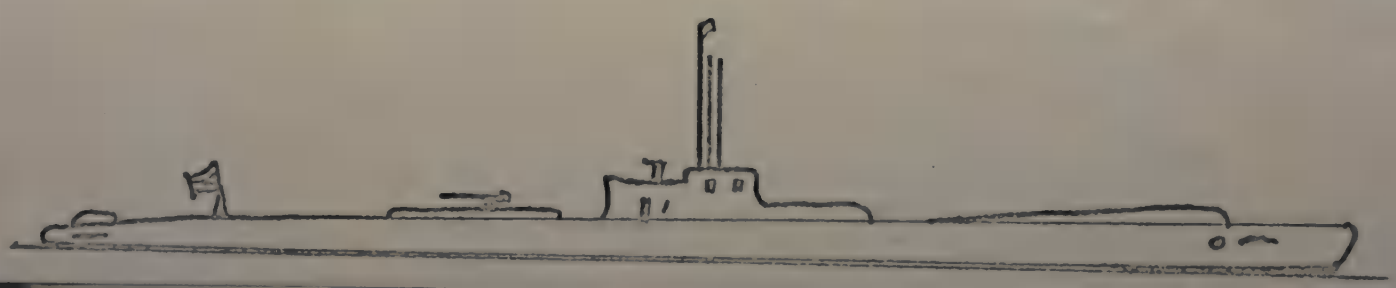
Presentation of Historical Marker ---------- Representative Wendell Wyatt

Acceptance of Historical Marker ---------- County Commissioner Verne Stratton

Closing Remarks ---------- George Fulton

Benediction ---------- Rev. Louis Ondracek
Philadelphia Church, Hammond

Adjournment ---------- George Fulton



In this area, at 11:30 pm. on June 21 1942,

~~seven~~ 14 five-inch explosive shells were ~~fired~~ dropped.

They were fired from a ~~large~~ Japanese submarine,

~~presumably Japanese~~. They shells were

aimed at nearby Fort Stevens, the Columbia

River harbor defense. This was the only ~~foreign~~

shelling ~~of~~ a United States military installation

~~since~~ ~~World War I and II~~ since the War of 1812.

Rolf, Above is suggested legend.

Do with it as you will. Ted Stokes

might be helpful.

Ed.

1-4-67

Inscribed on the Marker is the following:

"ON JUNE 21, 1942, A 5.5 SHELL EXPLODED HERE; ONE OF 17 FIRED AT COLUMBIA RIVER HARBOR DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS BY A JAPANESE SUBMARINE. THE ONLY HOSTILE SHELLING OF A MILITARY BASE ON THE U. S. MAINLAND DURING WORLD WAR II AND THE FIRST SINCE THE WAR OF 1812."

July 3, 1968

Mr. Lawrence Rogers
Hammond, Oregon 97121

Dear Lawrence:

We are more than pleased that you will remain as an advisor to our county historical advisory committee.

I have a question and seek your advice. Would you kindly read, criticize, add to or delete from, the enclosed legend which will be placed in a roadside marker (granite, stone, cement) to mark the area of the shelling in 1942. You were a first-hand observer and therefore we ask your help. We want it to be absolutely correct.

Thank you.

Cordially,

E. W. Harvey,
Chairman

EWH:rr

cc: William Foster

Japanese Shelling

In this area, at 11:30 p.m. on June 21, 1942, nine five-inch explosive shells were landed from a large enemy submarine, presumably Japanese. They were aimed at nearby Fort Stevens, the Columbia River harbor defense. This was the only foreign shelling upon ~~American~~ United States shores during World Wars I and II.

Dedication To Recall Japanese Attack On Ft. Stevens In 1942

WARRENTON (AP) — A modest granite marker now shows the spot where a shell from an enemy submarine's deck gun landed near Ft. Stevens 28 years ago this spring.

It was the first enemy attack on an American military installation in this country since the War of 1812. It caused no damage.

The Clatsop County Historical Adivsory Committee arranged for the marker, put in place a few days ago, and plans to dedicate it soon.

Guns Silent

The marker is a reminder of those dark, uncertain days when the forces of Japan were ranging throughout the Pacific and no one was sure what the future held.

The guns of Ft. Stevens did not reply to the submarine's attack. It was said that was correct procedure, since a single vessel's attack might be intended to draw answering fire and reveal location of the guns to a larger, approaching force.

But that really was beside the point. The submarine's 5.5-inch deck gun was dropping in shells from 10 miles off shore. Ft. Stevens' guns—its newest installed in 1904—couldn't shoot that far by a couple of miles.

The marker carries a carved replica of the Japanese submarine. Dick Thompson, Astoria stonemason, carved it from plans supplied by the Mitsubishi shipyard of Kobe, Japan, its manufacturer.

The inscription says that "On June 21, 1942, a 5.5-inch shell exploded here, one of 17 fired at Columbia River harbor defense installations by the Japanese submarine I-25, the only hostile shelling of a military base on the U.S. mainland during World War II and the first since the War of 1812."

The Army, which held a tight clamp on news in those wartime days, said only six to nine shells were fired.

Blasts Heard

But Robert Lucas and Fred Andrus, both then of the staff of the Daily Astorian, told of hearing the first dull, hollow thud of the gun's firing, then seeing from upstairs windows at their homes the orange-tinged flashes from the gun.

They said at least a dozen projectiles were heard whistling toward their target then exploding with blasts heard all the way across the Columbia River at Ilwaco, Wash.

Mostly they buried themselves in soggy, wooded ground that soon after daylight was littered with wrappers from film, discarded by the throngs of the curious.

Years later, Meiji Tagami, captain of the submarine, told of the sub's trip to the West Coast of the United States and recalled that it returned some two months later and launched a plane from the deck hangar.

The pilot dropped incendiary bombs on the forests in Curry County, but there had been rains and the fires went out before causing damage.

17 Rounds Fired

The captain said his gun fired 17 rounds at Ft. Stevens—the figure used in the marker's inscription. But he had thought it was a submarine base.

Newspapers reporting the shelling of Ft. Stevens, said that the Japanese had just invaded Kiska in the Aleutian Islands. And they also carried that day what was described as the first eyewitness account of the Battle of Midway. It was by Wendell Webb, an Associated Press war correspondent and now editor of the Salem Statesman.

Ft. Stevens got its first modernization in nearly 40 years as a result of the shelling. A modern, rapid-fire battery of six-inch guns was installed, but the work wasn't completed until 1944, long after Japan had lost its capability of carrying the war to the mainland of the United States.

Ft. Stevens was abandoned long ago by the federal government. Much of its area is now a state park, visited in summer by thousands who clamber over Battery Russell from which the guns were removed after World War II and sold for scrap.

"Style Center for Engagement Rings"

Famous For Values Since 1888
Divided Payments

DAN MARX
JEWELERS—RENE BLOCH, Owner
511 S.W. BROADWAY
Near Washington

On June 21, 1942 in the late evening fourteen five inch explosive shells were dropped in this area. They were fired from a Japanese submarine. The shells were aimed at Camp Clatsop (Rilea) and at Fort Stevens, the Columbia River harbor defense. This was the only shelling of U.S. military installations since the War of 1812.

Geo Fulton

On the night of June 21, 1942, fourteen five-inch explosive shells were fired into this area from a Japanese submarine. These shells were fired at Camp Clatsop (Rilea) and at Fort Stevens, the Columbia River Harbor defense. This was the only shelling of U. S. military installations since the War of 1812.

1700

Astoria Fire
Dec. 8, 1922

Fire that started 20 feet North of here in the Bee Hive Department Store destroyed 32 square blocks of the City of Astoria, Oregon.

Historical Landmark

On June 21, 1942 a 5" shell exploded here; one of 14 fired at Columbia River Harbor Defenses by a Japanese submarine. The only hostile shelling of a military installation on the U.S. Mainland during World War II; the first since The War of 1812.

OK
Russ Bristow

HISTORICAL LANDMARK

ASTORIA COLUMN